

Mr. J. E. Curry
Chief of Police

December 5, 1963

Re: Interview with John Rutledge,
Dallas Morning News

Sir:

I interviewed Mr. Rutledge at 6:00 p.m. on Monday evening, December 2, 1963.

He denied ever seeing Jack Ruby with a press pass and had no information that any officer had told Jack Ruby that he could go up and see Oswald.

He remembers that before 6:00 p.m. on November 22, 1963, that he was standing by the door leading into the Burglary and Theft Bureau and that he saw Jack Ruby standing real close to some newsmen. Captain Fritz was being interviewed by a group of newsmen. Some newsmen asked who was being interviewed and Rutledge said Ruby answered thusly: "Will- W I L L, Fritz- F R I T Z. Mr. Rutledge saw about 4 officers speak to Ruby during the time of the interview. He also saw Ruby at another time standing near newsmen just outside the door leading to the Forgery Bureau. He does not remember Ruby talking to anyone at this time.

Rutledge states that almost everytime he saw Ruby, that Ruby was physically crowding himself against newsmen.

Mr. Rutledge says on another occasion, does not remember if it was Friday, November 22, 1963 or Saturday, November 23, 1963, he was near the elevator on the third floor of the Police and Courts Building. Uniformed guards were checking people entering the third floor. He saw two newsmen walk from the elevators to the hallway leading to the CID Bureau Offices. These two men were newsmen but he does not know who they were. Jack Ruby was pushed up between them with his left arm around the newsmen to his left and a piece of folded paper in his other hand. This paper had some writing on it but Rutledge did not know what the writing was. Ruby was talking and waving the paper to the two newsmen as they turned down the hallway toward the Homicide Office. He did not see a press identification or pass on Ruby and the officers apparently allowed the 3 to pass them without checking identification. Rutledge said about midnight of Friday, November 22, 1963, there was a press conference and

show-up in the Assembly Room in the basement of the City Hall. He said Oswald was shown. Henry Wade also gave a press conference. Rutledge said that the conference was divided in two parts. The first part was to a roomful of newsmen and upon conclusion of this conference some of the TV newsmen requested that Henry answer some more questions so the TV cameras could get it. Rutledge said he saw another Dallas news reporter, Harry McCormack and asked Harry if he would cover the rest of the conference while he, Rutledge, was phoning in what he had already obtained.

Mr. Rutledge left to phone in his report and when he returned, many of the newsmen had gone. He remembers that he could not find Harry McCormack and while looking for him, he continued looking around the room. Mr. Henry Wade was at the desk and Judge David Johnston was seated across the desk in front of Mr. Wade. Mr. Rutledge saw Jack Ruby standing between the second and third row desk directly in front of Judge Johnston. He saw Ruby lean over toward Judge Johnston as far as he could and hand a business type card that had a red circle on one end of the card in his hand. Judge Johnston leaned toward him as far as he could and took the card.

Mr. Rutledge then left the assembly room through a rear door that led into the Records Bureau. He went to the second desk north of Captain Slaughter's Office in the first row of desks that are west of the row of filing cabinets running north and south through the center of the Records Bureau.

Mr. Rutledge used a phone on this desk and he saw Jack Ruby using a telephone on the first desk south of him. This would be the first desk in the same row as was the desk Rutledge was using, and would be the desk closest to the entrance to the Records Bureau adjacent to Captain Slaughter's Office.

The District Attorney, Mr. Henry Wade, then entered the Records Bureau through the entrance near Captain Slaughter's Office. Jack Ruby was calling and motioning Mr. Wade to come to the telephone and said into the phone, "Mr. Wade is here now, I'll let you talk to him." At the same time a reporter was calling

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Mr. Wade to the telephone on the counter on the east side of the Records Bureau and requesting that he come to that phone as they were on the air at that time. Mr. Wade hesitated momentarily and then went to the phone on the counter. Mr. Rutledge left his line open and stood near Mr. Wade while he was talking. Mr. Rutledge stated that upon completion of this call, Mr. Wade went to the desk where Jack Ruby was and engaged in a conversation with the person to whom Ruby had been talking.

Mr. Rutledge said that he engaged in a conversation with Cameraman Jimmy Darnell of BBAP-TV, Channel 5 at one time regarding Jack Ruby, but he does not remember if this was on Friday or Saturday.

Mr. Darnell will be interviewed regarding this.

Mr. Rutledge was not present in the basement of the City Hall on Sunday, November 24, 1963.

Respectfully submitted,

O. A. Jones
Captain of Police

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